

47

MINUTES

OF THE
TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE

...Leaf River Baptist Association...

HELD WITH

...Buffalo Church...

GREENE COUNTY, MISS.,

October 18, 19 and 20, 1902.

OFFICERS:

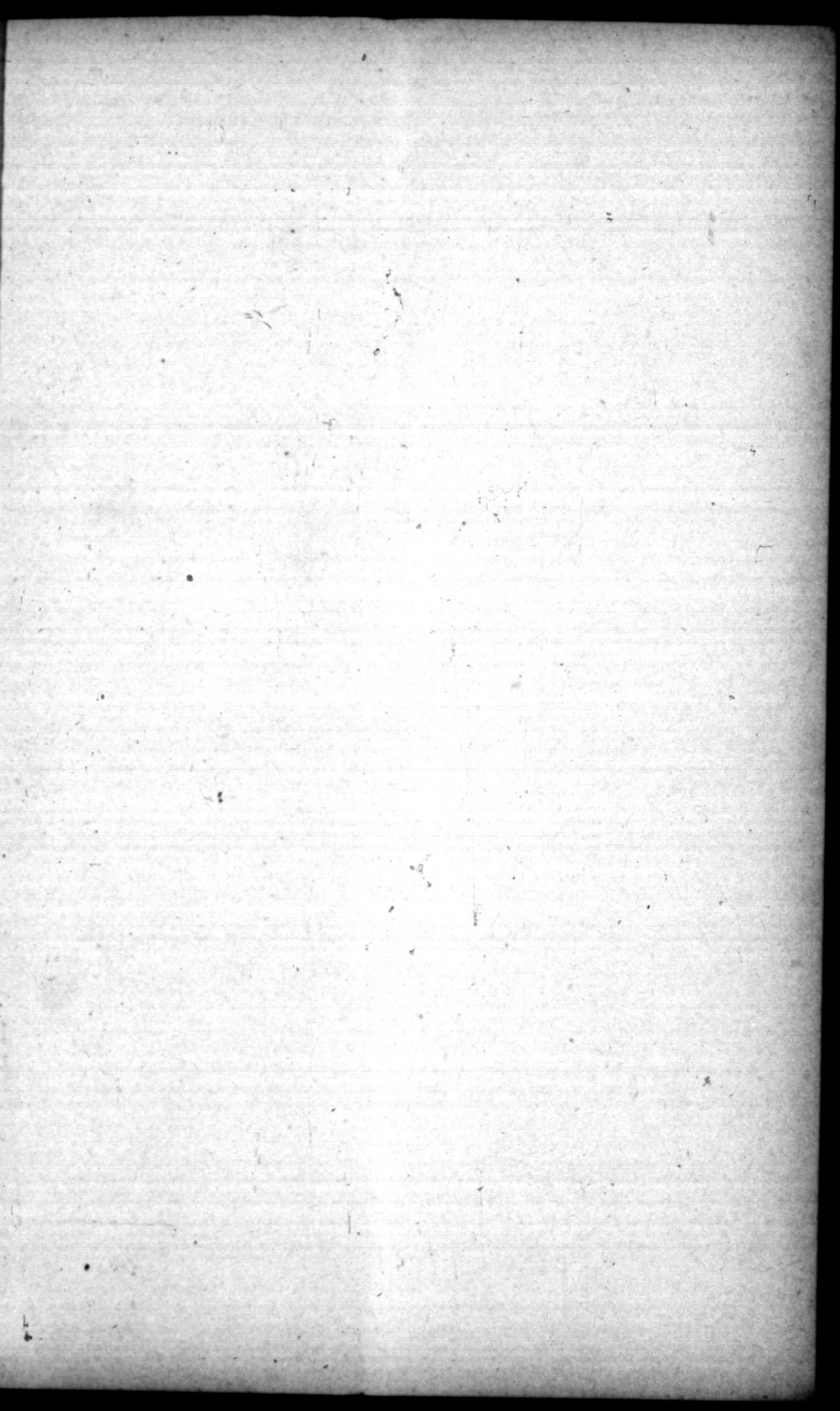
R. W. PRINE, Moderator _____ Grafton, Miss.
J. L. DAVIS, Clerk and Treasurer _____ Augusta, Miss.

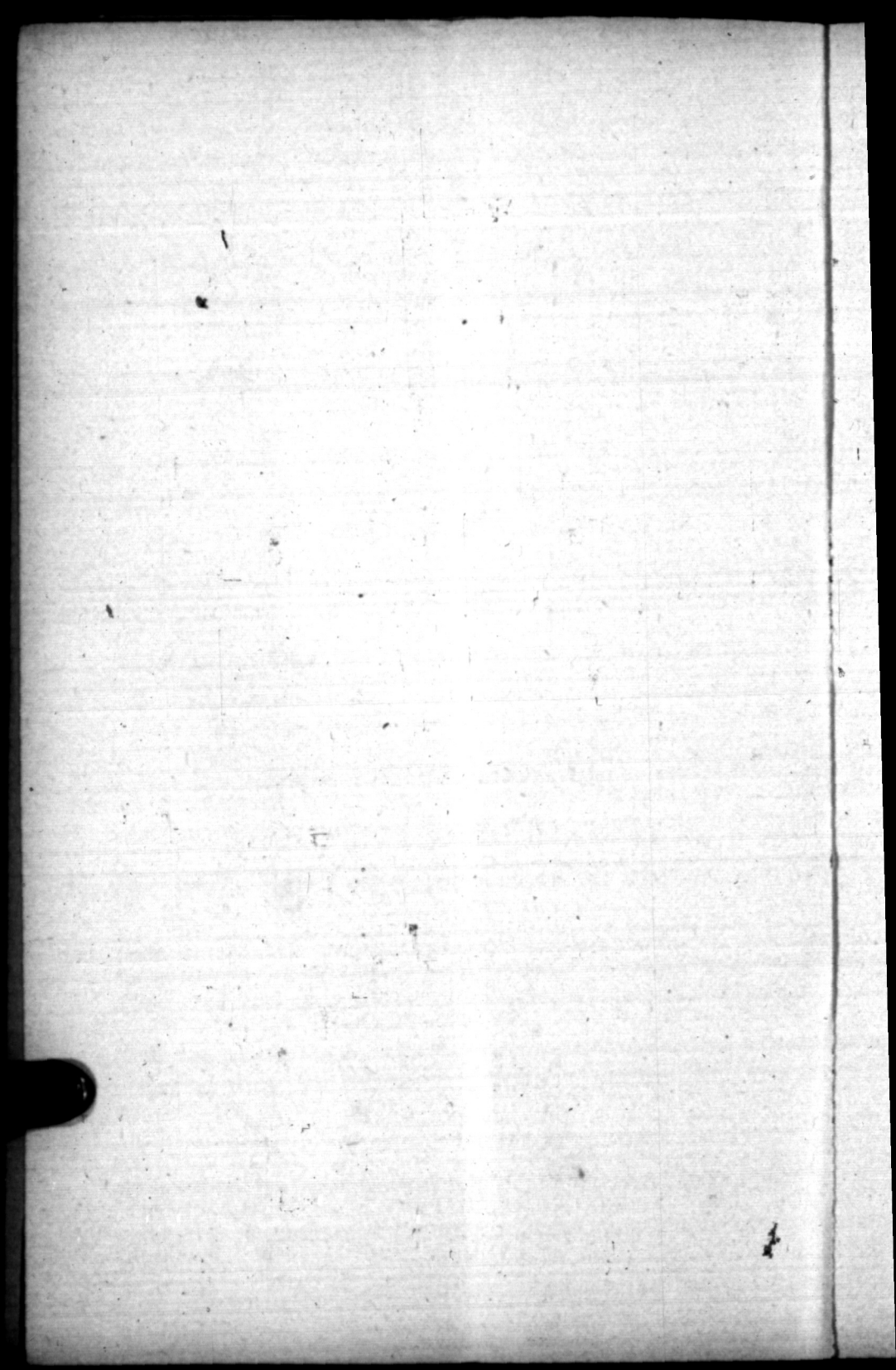
ORDAINED MINISTERS:

ELDER R. W. PRINE	_____	Grafton, Miss.
ELDER THOS. HAYARD	_____	Mallett, Miss.
ELDER P. G. HELMAN	_____	Kitterell, Miss.
ELDER ALLEN DUNLAP	_____	Lebanonville, Miss.
ELDER J. P. GRIFFIN	_____	Parson, Ala.
ELDER D. B. BOOTH	_____	Mallett, Miss.
ELDER A. J. HARTLEY	_____	Adamsville, Miss.
ELDER C. M. DUNLAP	_____	Mallett, Miss.
ELDER R. B. LEE	_____	Kitterell, Miss.

LICENTIATES

H. B. DUNLAP, W. W. WALLY, J. L. JACKSON
C. W. HARVISON, E. B. ROBERTS.





MINUTES

OF THE

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

By the grace of God the Leaf River Baptist Association convened today, Oct. 18, 1902, in her twelfth annual session with Buffalo church, Greene county, Miss. The weather was fine and a large congregation assembled. At 11 o'clock a song of praise was sung and prayer offered by Rev. W. K. Redd, and the introductory sermon preached by Elder C. M. Breland, using the twenty-second verse of the eleventh chapter of the gospel by Luke, "Have Faith in God," and spoke to a much interested congregation.

Recess was given for one hour and we feasted on a good dinner presented by the good people of Buffalo; after which the delegates assembled in the house. A song of praise was sung to the Lord and prayer offered by Elder D. B. Booth, and the body declared in order for business by the moderator.

C. M. Breland and J. H. Turner were chosen reading clerks; Albert Davis, T. W. Brannan and W. R. Lott, committee on finance. Committee on preaching, J. F. Brewer, C. W. Harvison, Alex Breland and deacons of the church.

Call for Church Letters—The following were presented and the names of the delegates enrolled:

Fair Hope—A. G. Sylvester, A. C. Jordan, W. R. Lott.

Washington—P. G. Hillman, Calvin Byrd, Alexander Breland.

Macedonia—T. W. Brannan, John Whatly.

Oak Grove—J. D. Williams.

Fellowship—C. P. Smith, A. J. Easely.

Salem—J. L. Davis, G. W. Walton, C. W. Harvison.

Cedar Grove—S. R. Breland, C. L. Kittrell.

Mt. Pizgah—Albert Davis, Will Beard, J. K. Box.

Rocky Creek—Thomas Havard, L. Chrenshaw, C. E. Davis.

New Hope—J. T. Vice, J. R. Parker.

Sweet Water—J. H. Turner, Osburn Turner, M. W. Ball.

Buffalo—C. O. Backstrom, W. C. Roberts, J. F. Cochran.

Sand Hill—W. W. Wally, J. C. Roberts, R. L. Wally.

Pleasant Hill—J. F. Brewer, D. C. Turner, R. W. Prine.

Merrill—C. M. Breland.

Call for Petitionery Letters—Bros. B. H. Brannan and J. M. Mallett presented a letter from Lucedale church, which was received and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the moderator.

Call for Correspondence—Bros. N. L. Pierce and Fritz Pierce from Southeastern Association. Bro. A. McGilvey from Ebernezer Association and Bro. J. W. Norsworthy from the Macedonia Association presented their letters and the right hand of fellowship extended by the moderator, and an election was then ordered for officers to serve during the ensuing year and Bros. A. McGilvey and J. W. Norsworthy were appointed tellers. Vote was taken and Elder R. W. Prine was chosen moderator and J. L. Davis, clerk and treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

On Education—D. B. Booth, J. D. Williams, C. M. Breland, W. K. Redd.

On Missions—Thos. Harvard, W. W. Wally, J. F. Brewer, A. G. Sylvester, R. L. Wally.

On Sabbath Schools—N. L. Pierce, C. P. Smith, Albert Davis, C. L. Kittrell.

On Temperance—C. O. Backstrom, Alexander Breland, J. H. Turner, John Whatly, Osburn Turner, W. C. Roberts.

On Queries and Requests—Thos. Havard, W. R. Lott, C. P. Smith, A. C. Jordan, J. C. Roberts, P. G. Hillman, J. P. Merrett, with moderator and clerk added.

On State of Religion--J. L. Jackson, A. J. Easely, Calvin Byrd, C. W. Harvin, C. E. Davis, L. Chrenshaw, S. R. Breland, D. C. Turner, M. W. Ball.

On Sustenation--C. M. Breland, Thos. Havard, J. P. Merrett.

A motion prevailed to appoint a committee on publication, consisting of C. M. Breland, J. R. Parker, J. T. Vice, Will Beard, J. L. Jackson and N. L. Pierce.

CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS APPOINTED TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS.

Ebenezer Association--J. F. Brewer, C. W. Harvison. Southeastern Association--J. L. Jackson, R. W. Prine to write Albert Davis, T. W. Brannan, M. W. Ball.

Red Creek Association--C. M. Breland to write W. C. Roberts, Alex Breland.

Macedonia Association--P. G. Hillman to write E. W. L. Davis, C. P. Smith, A. J. Easely.

Moved that the report on Sabbath Schools be discussed on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, was ably done, adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

SABBATH SERVICES.--Elders Redd, Merrett, Booth, Easely and Breland preached to large and attentive congregations as appointed by the preaching committee, and we trust that it was bread cast that will be gathered in due time and that the son of man was lifted up to a dying world and that God was honored and the brethren strengthened.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

Monday morning, October 20, 1902, the body met pursuant to adjournment, the moderator in the chair. A song was sung and prayer offered by Rev. J. P. Merrett.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES CALLED FOR.

Report on preaching received and marked (a), report on education received and marked (b), report on missions received and marked (c), report on Sunday School received and marked (d), report on temperance received and marked (e), report on queries and requests received and marked (f), report on state of religion received and marked (g), report on sustenation received and marked (h), report on publication received and marked (i), report of the treasurer received and marked (j), report on finance received and marked (l).

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Appointment of the Executive Board to serve for the ensuing year of one member from each church with the moderator and clerk added. Cedar Grove, C. L. Kittrell; Salem, C. W. Harvison; Mt. Pizgah, Albert Davis; Pleasant Hill, J. F. Brewer; Sweet Water, P. G. Hillman; New Hope, John Vice; Fellowship, C. P. Smith; Rocky Creek, D. B. Booth; Buffalo, J. F. Cochran; Fair Hope, A. G. Sylvester; Enon, E. W. L. Davis; Sand Hill, R. L. Wally; Merrill, C. M. Breland; Washington, Alex Breland; Macedonia, T. W. Brannan; Oak Grove, J. D. Williams; Lucedale, B. H. Brannan.

The reports of committees was read, discussed and adopted as follows:

On Preaching—Your committee appoints Elder W. K. Redd to preach at Stand at 2 o'clock Saturday; Elder J. P. Merrett at church Saturday night; Elder D. B. Booth at 11 o'clock Sunday; Elder A. J. Easley at 2 o'clock Sunday evening; Elder C. M. Breland at church Sunday night; J. P. Merrett at 11 o'clock Monday, and Elder F. L. Moss at 2 o'clock Monday evening. We recommend that D. B. Booth preach the next introductory sermon and that Alexander Breland be alternate.

On Education, discussed—We rejoice in the free school system of our country which offers free instruction and equal advantages to every child, thus many poor children that would otherwise be illiterate, received the rudiments of an education. An institution of higher education to be of real value must be of such a nature that the forces that make for character shall control the forces that make for intelligence. A Christian education is the only one worth having. If we desire our children to be orthodox Christian we must see to it that they attend a Baptist church. If we wish them to have a Christian education we must see to it that they attend Baptist. We consider Mississippi College the best school for our boys in the state. Our girls should go to Hillman or Blue Mountain Female College. We would call the attention of this body to the subject of ministerial education—the rising generation is being educated and this of itself demands an educated ministry as never before. Respectfully,

D. B. Booth, Ch'm.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The report on missions was read, discussed and adopted. It is the work of missions to extend the kingdom of our Master in the world. God's people are to be witnesses for

Christ unto the uttermost parts of the earth, hence the claims upon us are world wide and the obligations to witness for Him are personal to every child of God and will continue so until the knowledge of the Lord and of His Christ shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. It is encouraging to know that the contributions to every branch of our mission work is on the increase. The Baptists of the State have given to missions more than twenty-five thousand dollars this year, while the Baptists of the South have given more than one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars to foreign missions alone. Last year there were more than fourteen hundred converts received by Baptism on our foreign fields. We, your committee, would urge the brethren of the Association to give special attention to the needs of the cause in our own territory. New railroads and new commercial interests are continually creating new centers of population in our midst, hence it behooves us to improve these opportunities. We would advise the continuing of the executive committee on missions, consisting of our moderator, clerk and one member from each church in the association. Brethren, the calls upon us are increasing from every land. The order from Heaven to us is "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Let us thank God for his blessings upon the work and take courage for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. HAVARD, Chairman.

A. G. SYLVESTER, J. F. BREWER.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The report on Sunday Schools was received, discussed and adopted. We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following: Some one has said the Sunday School is the church at work. We are free to agree with this statement in the sense that the Sunday School, when properly conducted with the Bible for its text book, is a needful and fruitful branch of church work, and statistics show that more than nineteen million people meet every Sunday to study God's word. We urge the ministers of the Association to put forth greater effort in Sunday Schools, as the majority of our converts come from this branch of our work. We urge in the use of other helps that we only use sound Baptist literature, such as is published by our Sunday School board at Nashville, Tenn.

W. K. REDR, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The report on temperance was received, discussed and

adopted. We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to submit the following. We believe that the Bible is the word of God and that it teaches abstinence and temperance and that which is of the world will partake of the things of the world and we as your committee request of the churches of this Association to hold more sacred restrictions against this great evil. Respectfully submitted,
ALEX BRELAND, Chairman.

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

The report and queries and request was received and adopted. We, your committee report as follows: We find several request inviting the Association to convene with them. Your committee recommends that we meet with Cedar Grove Church Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1903. We also find one query from Cedar Grove, asking has a minister the scriptural right to perform ordinations without a presbytery. We answer, no. Respectfully submitted,
THOS. HAVARD, Ch'm.

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

The report on state of religion was received and adopted. Your committee beg leave to report as follows: We note accessions to some of our churches but it is painful to us to say that there is great lack on our part in living for and following Jesus our Saviour in his commands and examples of love. Brethren, let us start from today to take the teachings of the New Testament, the word of Christ and his apostles. Brother ministers, one and all, we appeal to you for earnest effort in preaching the whole Bible, in living in prayer to God in humble love to each other that God bless our efforts for good in his name. May the great Head of the church bring us together of one mind in brotherly love. Brethren, let us stand firm and uphold the Banner of the King. Respectfully submitted,
J. L. JACKSON, Ch'm.

REPORT ON SUSTENANCE.

The report on sustenance was received, discussed and adopted. We, your committee, beg to make the following report: We are sure that this is calling attention to one of our most important duties, yet one of the past to be looked after by us, caring for those who have been faithful in the ministry; that are now old, infirm and helpless, if while in vigor and health through worthy labors, they are worthy of double honor and support, as is mentioned in First Timothy. Surely we should continue to look after and help them in their old age and helpless condition. We

fear that too few of our churches, if any, are awake to this important duty. As is shown in our statistics, this is the first step in this direction in our Association, but brethren let us stop and look into an important question.

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. BRELAND.

REPORT ON PUBLICATION.

The report on publication was discussed and adopted. We your committee make the following report: We know that our people everywhere read more or less, and while they read and ought to read, we as Baptists should see that they have the most wholesome books and literature because as we read we think, and as we think so we are. The world is full of trashy literature and novels, and some of us buy because of their cheapness and refuse to take the best because of higher prices and say we can get so much more—that is true, but a ton of rotten corn is worth less than a peck of sound, so we urge taking the best, such as the BAPTIST, published at Jackson \$2.00 per year in advance; the WESTERN RECORDER and such literature of our own denomination, and above all let us be sure to read and study the word of God which is the sure word of prophecy and is able to make its readers wise unto salvation. In our opinion we need a colporter in our Association to see that we have our own denominational literature to sell and distribute the same. Elder J. P. Merritt urged the body to subscribe for the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST, published at Newton, Miss., at \$1.00 per year.

C. M. BRELAND, Ch'm.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE LEAF RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Received from the Association	\$30.75
Paid for printing 350 minutes.....	13.50
Paid clerk.....	15.00
Express.....	1.50
Postage and stationery.....	1.50
Respectfully submitted,	J. L. DAVIS, Treas.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Received during the year	\$62.90
Paid Elder Alex Breland for mission work	36.50
Remaining in Treasury	26.40
Respectfully submitted,	J. L. DAVIS, Treas.

We, your committee on finance, beg leave to make the following report: Received from the churches, \$34.50; foreign missions, \$2.55; home missions collected on Sabbath, \$19.19; total \$56.24. We have examined the treasurer's report and find the same correct for 1902. We find that the Association is due the clerk 25 cents. There were \$42.00 contributed to the superannuated preachers.

Respectfully submitted, ALBERT DAVIS, Ch'm.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved that we have 350 copies of minutes printed for the churches and distribution and that the clerk superintend the printing of the same and the clerk be allowed the sum of \$15.00 for services as clerk and treasurer of the Association.

Resolved that the delegates of this Association do hereby extend our thanks and hearty appreciation to the members and friends of Buffalo church for the generous hospitality so kindly bestowed upon us during our stay with them. Adopted by a rising vote. Through with the business Elder Thos. Havard moved to adjourn to meet with Cedar Grove Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1903. The minutes were read and approved as read. We took leave of each other, trusting in God that we will meet one more association.

J. L. DAVIS, Clerk. R. W. PRINE, Moderator.

We note with pleasure the growth of the Leaf River Baptist Association. Ten years ago it had four churches, 2 ordained ministers and a membership of about 300. Now it has 17 churches, 9 ordained preachers, 5 licentiates and about 900 communicants, and we are glad to see the brethren doing more to further it on by giving more liberal to the cause of missions and for charity. The people of the several churches are as kind and hospitable as there is anywhere. They spare no pains or expense to entertain all that attend the Association. Every meeting grows in members and finances, but there is a great deal more to be done. Let us pray more, let us work more and above all let us ask God's holy spirit to guide us in the way we should go, and we will accomplish much good. We believe that the brethren are becoming more zealous in the cause and more active in the work of the Lord. Let us work together, let us pray together and give together, bearing in mind he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord.

J. L. D

CONSTITUTION.

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, having been regularly baptized upon a profession of faith, being convinced of the necessity and utility of a combination of churches of the same faith and order, do agree to unite ourselves into an association upon the following principles:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in one only true and living God; and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one and the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2d. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by God; that they are of divine authority; that they contain the whole of the divine will and purposes as revealed to man, and that they are the only standard of divine truth and the only and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

3rd. We believe in the fall of Adam, and in him all his posterity; the total corruption of man's moral nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th. We believe in the everlasting love of God in His people in the eternal and unconditional election of all His spiritual children to grace and glory.

5th. We believe by the everlasting covenant, grace is treasured up in Christ to insure the generation, sanctification, preservation and perseverance of all God's people so that none of them shall be finally lost.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

7th. We believe that there is one mediator between God and man--the man Christ Jesus who by the sanctification he has made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath forever redeemed his people from under the curse of the law that they might be accepted in the beloved.

8th. We believe that good works are not meritorious that they are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement, and the happiness of the righteousness and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

10th. We believe that foot washing is an example practiced by Christ and that it is a duty to practice it.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep a Godly discipline agreeable to the New Testament.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and law-giver of His church, and the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3rd. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in His church until His second coming.

4th. We believe that immersion only is baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5th. We believe nothing but regularly baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6th. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to the ordinance of the gospel, and to give themselves as members of the visible church.

7th. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct or that holds doctrine contrary to the scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches to which they respectfully belong, and shall be styled the Leaf River Baptist Association.

2d. Such delegates shall be members in good standing, and no member under church censure shall be allowed a seat in the association.

3rd. They shall produce letters certifying to their appointment by their respective churches, and stating the number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased during the preceding associational year, with the total number of fellowship and such other statistical matters as the association may direct.

4th. This association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen annually by a majority of the members present; said Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and shall fill their respective places, if present, at the succeeding association until a new election takes place, and while in office shall discharge the duties ordinarily incident to those offices.

5th. If new churches desire to be admitted into this association, they shall petition by letter and delegates, and if orthodox and orderly shall be received, and the Moderator shall recognize them by giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

6th. Each church shall have three delegates, and no more, who shall be entitled to seats in the body and to vote. All ministers of the same faith and order are invited to seats with us, to aid us in counsel.

7th. The association shall neither answer or debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be to merely explain the articles of faith of this association.

8th. Every motion made and seconded shall be reduced to writing if requested by any member, and shall be considered by the association except it be withdrawn by the mover before discussion.

9th. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

10th. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each point separately.

11th. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator. He shall confine himself to the subject properly in debate, cast no reflection on the association or any member thereof, and shall not be interrupted while speaking.

12th. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.

13th. The moderator shall have the privilege of speaking on any subject in debate, the chair being previously filled. He shall rise from his seat and put the question to the body.

14th. The moderator shall decide questions of order, but appeal from such decisions may be taken to the whole which shall decide without debate.

15th. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to carry any motion or proposition and the moderator shall vote as other members when the vote is taken.

16th. Committees shall be nominated by the moderator, subject to the approval of the association.

17th. There shall be no talking or whispering while a brother is speaking.

18th. No brother shall finally depart from the association without leave of the body.

19th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over when thought necessary.

20th. The minutes shall be read, carefully corrected and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association arises.

21st. A motion for final adjournment shall be constructed to involve the previous reading and adjustment of the minutes.

22d. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

23rd. Immediately after the organization of the association the Rules of Order shall be read from the chair.

24th. The foregoing shall be subject to alteration or amendment at any regular meeting of the association.

25th. No church shall be received into this association who opposes foot washing.

FORM OF LETTER.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

The regular Baptist Church at (here insert name of church) to Leaf River Association, Greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN:—We again prepare to meet you by letter and by delegates, and for this purpose have chosen our beloved brethren.....

to all with you in council, to whom we refer you for any information not contained in our statistical table, which is as follows:

Baptized ; received by letter ; restored ; dismissed by letter ; excommunicated ; deceased ; total in fellowship ; number of copies of minutes ; we send for associational purposes \$; for home missions \$; our supply is ; time of meeting is ; ordained ministers ; licentiates our postoffice is
Remarks

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Delegates	Pastors	Postoffice	County	Baptized. Received by Letter.	Restored	Disowned by Letter.	Expelled.	Dead.	Total in Fellowship	No. Minutes.	Associational Purposes.
Buffalo	C. O. Breckman, W. C. Roberts, J. F. Cochran	C. M. Breland	Kittrell.	Greene	23	4	3	4	15	1	26	12 \$
Washington.	P. G. Fillman, Alex Breland, Calvin Byrd	J. D. Harrison	Kittrell.	Greene						104	30	3 00
Macedonia	T. W. Brannan, John Whatley	Thos. Havard	Brushy	Greene				3	8	1	38	20 50
Oak Grove.	J. D. Williams	J. D. Harrison	Merrill	Greene			1				9	6 00
New Hope.	J. T. Vice, J. R. Parker	C. M. Breland	Howell	Jackson..	4	1		1		1	48	15 00
Salem	J. L. Davis, G. W. Walton, C. W. Harrison	W. K. Redd.	Leaf	Greene				6			28	15 00
Sand Hill	W. W. Wally, J. C. Roberts, R. L. Wally	C. M. Breland	Grafton	Greene	2		2				86	15 00
Merrill	C. W. Breland	C. M. Breland	Merrill	Greene	8						24	10 50
Pleasant Hill.	R. W. Prine, J. F. Brewer, D. C. Turner	W. K. Redd.	Janet	Greene	5	1		2		2	51	25 00
Rocky Creek	Thos. Havard, L. Crenshaw, C. E. Davis.	Jeff Lott.	Mullett.	Greene	1	1	1	9		2	80	25 00
Fellowship.	C. P. Smith, A. J. Easily	A. J. Easily.	Adamsville	Greene					1	1	31	10 50
Fair Hope	A. G. Sylvester, A. C. Jordan, W. R. Lott	J. P. Merritt.	Beaumont	Perry	1	2		6			53	25 00
Mt. Pizgah	Will Beard, J. K. Box, Albert Davis	Alex Breland.	Exsho	Ala.					1		28	15 00
Cedar Grove.	Sr-R. Breland, C. L. Kittrell.	J. D. Harrison	Jonathan.	Greene	5	1					51	20 00
Sweet Water.	J. H. Turner, Os. Turner, M. W. Ball	J. D. Harrison	Leaksville.	Greene	7	1					93	30 00
Enon	Not Represented										24	8 00
Lucedale	J. M. Mallett, B. H. Brannan	WN Newbury	Lucedale	Greene	22	24					58	40 50
Total					69	43	7	25	9	894	321	\$34 50

